



April 13, 2001

David P. Boergers, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Idaho Power Company
Information Filing Pursuant to the Commission's Order in Docket No.
EL01-47-000

Dear Mr. Boergers:

On March 14, 2001, the Commission issued an order in Docket No. EL01-47-000 designed to remove obstacles to increased electric generation and natural gas supply in the Western United States. At page 6 of that order, the Commission directed each of the transmission owners in the Western Systems Coordinating Council (WSCC) area to file, for informational purposes, a list of the grid enhancements underway on its system, as well as those enhancements which do not require initial siting and acquisition of rights of way, and which could be placed in service in the short term.

On March 16, 2001, Idaho Power submitted an initial informational filing on the Brownlee-Paddock 230 kV line, which was placed in service on March 17, 2001. This filing, along with the March 16 filing, completes Idaho Power's response to the request for transmission project information in the Docket No. EL01-47-000 Order. In today's filing, the Brownlee-Paddock Junction 230 kV line has been included again for completeness.

The State of Idaho is presently facing a near worst case critical water situation. This has significantly depleted the hydroelectric supply that Idaho Power relies on for a significant portion of the energy for its customers. Idaho Power Company has been taking steps in 2000 and 2001 to reduce its customer's reliance on the wildly fluctuating external power market. This includes energy conserving load reduction programs and both temporary and permanent generation additions.

Conservation and siting new generation close to load are viable and often preferable alternatives to building additional transmission capacity. These are integral components of Idaho Power's strategy for maintaining an adequate, and reasonable cost, supply for its customers. Accordingly, we have shown these generation projects in this response.

Idaho Power is taking steps to upgrade its transmission system, as the Commission suggested in this order. These transmission projects, as well as the generation additions mentioned above, are listed in Table 1. The table also lists additional transmission projects that can, in the near term,

add transmission capacity to the Idaho Power system. We note that some caution should be exercised in selection of transmission projects for construction. It is not necessarily beneficial to increase transmission capacity unless there is an available supply on the other side.

Idaho Power has also pursued the development of other long term options not listed in Table 1. The Southwest Intertie Project has completed the federal siting process and can be constructed in approximately 4 years once project sponsors and funding can be arranged. Idaho Power also has upgrades in the Borah West constraint in the Western Interconnection's regional planning process. The ultimate option selected to fulfill the present level of requests for transmission capacity will likely require the construction of at least 100 miles of high voltage transmission.

One significant restraint to increased transmission capacity in the West is the federal (NEPA) (and potentially state) siting process. This process can delay the effective in-service dates of some projects from 18 months to many years. For example, the Brownlee-Oxbow second 230 kV line is a proposal to build along an existing 69 kV line route for a distance of approximately 10 miles. The Environmental Assessment process is expected to take about 18 months. The Commission's assistance in streamlining these siting processes is strongly encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

Barton Kline
Attorney for Idaho Power

Attachment

Table 1

Project	In-Service	Certifications and ROW	Estimated Capacity	Projected Project Cost	Comments
Near Term Projects					
Brownlee-Paddock Junction 230 kV Line	March 17, 2001	Complete	90 MW	\$16,600,000	Improves Brownlee East Capacity. Part of the Initial Phase of the Brownlee-Boise Project.
New temporary in-state generation	Summer 2001	Various	40-50 MW		Reduces reliance on out-of-state markets
New in-state generation	Summer 2001	Various	90 MW		Reduces reliance on out-of-state markets
Ontario Series Capacitor and Conductor Uprate	Fall 2001	Complete	100 MW	\$6,200,000	Completes of Initial Phase of Brownlee-Boise Project
Thermal Uprate of 230 kV Lines (Brownlee-Boise #1-#4, Brownlee-Oxbow, Brownlee-Hells Canyon)	Fall 2001	na		\$1,200,000	Recovers capability lost due to reduction in interruptible load
Mid-Term Projects					
Peterson Flats 230 kV Capacitors (2-35 Mvar banks)	Summer 2002	na	50 MW	\$2,500,000	Uprates existing Idaho-Montana 230 kV interconnection
Bridger West Series Capacitor Upgrade	Fall 2002	na	To be determined	To be determined	Upgrade Series Capacitor Protection System/Replace Series Capacitor Banks
Brownlee-Oxbow #2 230 kV Line	Summer 2004	NEPA, Oregon State EFSC	100 MW	\$7,000,000	Final Phase of Brownlee-Boise Project. Improves Brownlee East Capacity. Could be constructed in 12-15 months once NEPA/Siting processes are complete
Locust-Garnet-Caldwell 230 kV Line	Summer 2004	County Conditional Use Permits		\$20,000,000	For Boise valley local load service and new generator interconnection
New in-state generation (Garnet)	Summer 2004	Various	250 MW		Reduces reliance on out-of-state markets